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Subject: Fw: Oregon Fish Consumption Rate Project Update, Jan 10 - Meeting Notes
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Date: 01/17/2008 10:28 AM
Subject: Oregon Fish Consumption Rate Project Update, Jan 10 - Meeting Notes

Oregon Fish Consumption Rate Meeting, January 10, 2-3 PM

Meeting Notes:

Attendees:

Jordan Palmeri, Oregon DEQ
Patti Howard, CRITFC
Mike Karnosh, CTGR
Kathleen Feehan, CTUIR
Robin Gumpert
Mary Lou Soscia, EPA
Amber Parara, EPA

Download of the 10/07 EQC Meeting on the OR Fish Consumption Rate Project

1. Was a half day session and started with an overview of what has been covered and the revised project timeline and workshop themes.
2. Human Health Focus Group (HHFG) discussed their initial findings- that tribal members are at an increased health risks if they consume more than the current FCR of 17.5 g/day and talked about their work process;
3. Overall, EQC was supportive of this effort; the commissioners asked a lot of questions and for additional information. Commissioners asked the HHFG to provide input on actual numbers. They also asked the HHFG to provide a chart/comparison of the rate versus the economic impact as the rate increases - the HHFG felt this request was not within their realm of expertise.
4. Panels provided their feedback and input on the process:
The tribal panel consisting of representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Klamath Tribes provided an overview of the importance of fish to Tribal people from across Oregon.
The ACUA panel focused on what sort of implementation would occur
The industry panel also focused on implementation and provided some ideas on how to implement a

higher rate

The environmental panel, which included representatives from Columbia Riverkeeper and the Oregon Center for Environmental Health, focused on the risks toxics in fish pose to human health.

It was noted that there were no strong statements in opposition to an increased rate, just cautiousness over how an increased rate might be implemented.

5. All EQC members would like to attend the next workshop (4), which will focus on the HHFG final report findings and introduce the first set of FCR for consideration in revising the WQS

Overview: Revised Workshop Plan/Timeline

1. The next workshop (#4) is going to discuss initial rates and the HHFG report, and will be occur in Portland March. The date is tentatively set for Mar 5 but depends on the HHFG completing their work.
2. Workshop 5 will focus on the economic analysis which is currently be conducted.
3. Workshop 6 will discuss implementation and other alternatives for reducing toxics in fish, and will occur in June. And the draft recommendations to revise the FCR will be presented during Workshop 7 in July
4. Dates have yet to be set for workshops and are subject to change. The goal is still to present recommended FCR to the EQC during their Oct. meeting.

Role of Tribes and others in forming the agenda for future workshops

1. DS Consulting will be taking a leadership role in building the agenda based on participants needs and interests. DS Consulting plans to conduct outreach to obtain feedback on the workshops. However, Tribes are also encouraged to contact DS Consulting to discuss specific concerns and ideas.
2. Goal is to make workshops more participatory, with a clear purpose and answer as to how information received at the workshops will be used in the overall process.

Fiscal Impact Advisory Committee

1. The Fiscal Impacts Advisory Committee (FIAC) is forming and will have their first meeting on Jan 29 from 8:30 - 12:30 in the EPA conference room in Portland.
2. The DEQ is required to identify what, if any, impacts there would be when going into a rulemaking impact. The FIAC will only examine the economic cost of an increased fish consumption rate - they will not examine any economic benefit that may result.
3. FIAC will include representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Forest Products, Pulp and Paper, some municipalities, ACUA, and natural resource economists

Workshop 4: Discussion on some possible fish consumption rate numbers and findings of the Human Health Focus Group

1. The date for workshop 4 is tentatively set for Mar 5 but depends on the HHFG completing their work.
2. Agenda is currently under development and should be up on the web approximately one month prior to meeting date
3. 5-10 potential fish consumption rates will be presented at the meeting along with how the numbers were developed (includes salmon, doesn't include salmon, etc) and the reasons why the numbers were chosen. The public will then be asked to provide feedback on the potential rates.

Other Important Info:

Staffing Changes

1. EPA- Mary Lou Soscia is the primary contact for tribes. Technical questions on WQS and CWA requirements can be directed to Jannine Jennings.
2. DEQ- (b) (6) the Acting Director is Dick Pederson. Neil Mullane replaced Lauri Aunan as DEQ's Water Quality Division Administrator. Jennifer Wigal, from EPA Headquarters, has been hired to head up the Water Quality Standards Program and will begin sometime in March, Jordan Palmeri will continue to represent DEQ in this process.

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